East-West corridor

2572. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the National East-West corridor project;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to various bureaucratic delays, it runs the danger of being delayed like other projects; and

(c) whether any special proposals have been made to meet the set deadlines to avoid further delays and problems like cost escalation, land acquisition, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): The status of East-West Corridor is given at the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Apart from slow mobilization by contractors in some packages, there is some delays on account of land acquisition, utility shifting, forest clearance and approval of Railways on Road Over Bridges (ROBs). However, these delays can not be attributed to bureaucratic delay.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to expedite projects are given at the Statement-II

Statement-I

Details of East West Corridor : Status as on 31.7.2007

1. Actual Length :
   - East West Corridor : 3,443 km
     - Phase I : 291 km
     - Phase II : 3,152 km

II. Completed :
   - East West Corridor : 737 km
     - Phase I : 242 km
     - Phase II : 495 km

III. In progress:
   - East West Corridor : 2,474 km
     - Phase I : 49 km
     - Phase II : 2,425 km

I V. Balance for Award
   - East West Corridor : 232 km
     - Phase I : Nil
     - Phase II : 232 km

Statement-II

Steps taken by Government to ensure early completion of the projects

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs).

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with the Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has also been signed with M/s IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payments Certificate (IPC) amount.

Construction work on NHs in NER

2573. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.:

(a) the names of the roads in different States of the North-Eastern Region where the Central Government are carrying on construction works, State-wise;

(b) whether there are more names of roads in the region as proposed by the, State Governments; and

(c) the decision of Government in this regard?